

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC Fall Maneuver of the Third Shock Army

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EVALUATION \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE OF CONTENT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PREPARED 6 October 1955

REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_

This is UNEVALUATED Information

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) \_\_\_\_\_

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following troop trains were dispatched between 14 and 24 September 1955.  
14 September. At 0920, the Schwerin - Magdeburg - Brueckfeld freight train included 1 converted boxcar with officers and EM, 9 flatcars with 31 wooden pontoons and 3 flatcars with beams and bridge-building equipment.

20 September. At 1300, the Schwerin-Altengrabow freight train included 6 converted boxcars with officers, EM and women, 4 T-34 tanks, 9 x 85-mm AT guns, 17 trucks and 1 boxcar with ammunition.

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20/21 September. Additional trains in the same direction.

21 September. At 0600, from Stendal to Altengrabow: 9 converted boxcars with officers and EM, 4 x 76-mm guns, 5 new heavy trucks, 2 field kitchens, 1 ambulance, 1 tank truck and 1 motorcycle.

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At 1300, from Wismar to Altengrabow: 9 converted boxcars with officers and EM, 9 x 85-mm AT guns, 4 x 76-mm guns, 22 new trucks and 1 boxcar.

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At 1400, from Haldensleben to Guesen: 7 T-34/85 tanks, 6 JS-3 tanks, 17 converted boxcars with soldiers, 8 trucks and 1 field kitchen.

22 September. At 1020, from Haldensleben to Goerzke via Altengrabow: 18 T-34/85 tanks, 2 converted boxcars with officers and EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, and 2 large repair shop trucks.

23 September. At 0730, from Haldensleben to Guesen: 10 T-34/85 tanks, 4 SU-100 guns, 1 SU-100 gun without gun, 1 four-wheel armored scout car, 7 trucks, 1 tank truck, 1 field kitchen, and 3 converted boxcars with officers and EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets;

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At 1430, from the direction of Stendal to Biederitz: 1 converted boxcar with officers and EM, and 24 M-13 rocket launchers.

At 1500, from Stendal to Biederitz: 8 T-34/85 tanks including 3 without gun, 4 four-wheel armored scout cars, 5 M-13 rocket launchers, 2 trucks and 7 converted boxcars with EM.

At 1530, from the direction of Stendal toward Biederitz: 22 x 85-mm AT guns, 31 trucks with soldiers wearing artillery insignia. At 1700, from the direction of Stendal toward Biederitz: 17 boxcars with officers and EM, 1 six-wheel armored personnel carrier, 6 trucks with logs, 1 generator and 8 field kitchens.

At 1800, from the direction of Stendal toward Biederitz: 15 T-34/85 tanks, 3 T-34 tanks without gun, 9 trucks, 3 tank trucks, and 7 converted boxcars with officers and EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.

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24 September. At 1600, from the direction of Stendal toward Biederitz:

12 T-34/85 tanks, 25 trucks, 1 YA-12 armored scout car, 2 sedans, 1 trench excavator, 7 converted boxcars with officers and EM and 1 field kitchen. The rear and sides of all vehicles and tanks were marked by a white circle and a white stripe, some 20 cm wide.

At 1730, from the direction of Stendal to Guesen: 18 x 85-mm AT guns, 3 x 45-mm AT guns, 22 trucks, and 13 converted boxcars with officers and EM.

At 2100, from the direction of Stendal to Biederitz: 14 JS-3 tanks, 8 converted boxcars with officers and EM, 17 trucks, 7 AT guns and 1 field kitchen.

2. [redacted] the following troop trains were dispatched from Wismar to Altengrabow on 20 and 21 September 1955, respectively: a train of 4 T-34/85 tanks, 9 x 85-mm AT guns, 3 trucks and 5 converted boxcars with personnel; and a train of 30 flatcars with 9 x 85-mm AT guns and trucks and 9 converted boxcars with personnel, [redacted]

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3. [redacted] 2 shipments [redacted] and 1 shipment [redacted] went from Eberswalde to Altengrabow on 22 and 23 September, respectively.

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4. The following shipments passed through Rastow between 20 and 24 September:  
20 September. At 0830, toward Schwerin: 12 T-34/85 tanks, some trucks and 12 boxcars with soldiers.  
 At 0845, toward Ludwigslust: 4 x 57-mm AT guns, 30 trucks and approximately 12 boxcars with soldiers.  
 At 1430, 3 x 85-mm AT guns, 51 trucks and 12 boxcars with soldiers.  
23 September. At 1430, toward Ludwigslust: 55 trucks, including several tank trucks.

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At 1600, toward Ludwigslust: some 50 trucks including several tank trucks.

24 September. At 0745, toward Ludwigslust: some 15 ~~AT~~ guns, presumably ~~of~~ 37 mm, approximately 25 trucks and 9 boxcars with soldiers.

At 1115, toward Ludwigslust: approximately 12 ~~AT~~ tanks and several trucks.

At 1430, toward Ludwigslust: approximately 10 ~~AT~~ amphibious vehicles, some 25 trucks and 6 boxcars with personnel.

6. Between 1610 and 2230 on 23 September, an undetermined number of columns passed through Magdeburg. The columns came from the direction of Ebendorf and proceeded toward Heyrothsberge. Material observed included: some 60 four-wheel and six-wheel armored scout cars, 12 x 76-mm guns, 3 x 160-mm and 10 x 120-mm mortars, 12 x 85-mm and 16 x 57-mm AT guns, 6 x 85-mm and 17 ~~x~~ 37-mm AA guns, approximately 300 trucks, 40 tank trucks, 12 sedans and 20 keeps. Some trucks were occupied by soldiers and others carried equipment.

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Traffic control posts were observed at all street intersections, which the columns passed.

Between 1000 and 1230 on 23 September, between 40 and 50 trucks were seen in the yard of Nachrichten Kaserne (5286) in Magdeburg. Approximately 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets were seen with the trucks and subsequently bought foodstuff in nearby shops. At 1700, trucks and soldiers were no longer observed in the yard. At the same time, 50 to 60 trucks were stored in the yard of Seeckt Kaserne (5287). Some 80 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, were seen with these vehicles. The soldiers and trucks were still in the yard at 1810, but had disappeared at 2330. It is assumed that both truck groups joined the march column.

7. Between 1830 and 2115 on 23 September, 4 columns including approximately 7 sedans, 16 jeeps, 150 trucks, 17 tank trucks, 20 radio trucks, 10 field kitchens, 29 armored personnel carriers, 2 armored scout cars, 4 x 120-mm mortars, 5 x 85-mm AT guns, 15 x 20-mm AA guns, 5 medium AA guns and 11 x 76-mm field guns passed over the northern road bridge in Magdeburg. The columns came from the direction of Wolmirstedt and proceeded eastward. The tailboards of the vehicles were marked by a white circle.

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8. At 1715 on 20 September, a train left the Wittenberge railroad station toward Magdeburg. It consisted of 54 cars including 15 converted boxcars with soldiers, and carried 1 four-wheel armored scout car, 4 heavy mortars, 2 guns of an undetermined caliber and several trucks and sedans. It could not be determined from where the train had come.
9. Between 1600 and 1800 on 23 September, engineer units from the engineer camp east of Rosslau on the Elbe River proceeded toward Streetz. Approximately 120 trucks with some 60 steel pontoons, 12 three-axle amphibious vehicles, 8 motorboats and heavy bridge-building equipment was observed. The columns included a total of 700 to 800 soldiers who carried full field equipment.
10. At 1745 on 21 September, some 60 trucks, including 15 radio trucks, and 10 jeeps were assembled in the yard of Tauntzien Kaserne (5584) in Stendal. The vehicles were still there at 1930, but were not longer observed in the yard in the morning of 22 September. At 0725 on 20 September, a rail shipment with about 10 x 85-mm AT guns, 4 x 57-mm AT guns 30 to 35 trucks and 8 converted boxcars was seen coming from the direction of Wittenberge and proceeding toward Stendal.
11. At 0300 on 25 September, a troop train passed through the Brandenburg-Altstadt railroad station. The train, which had come from Schwerin and proceeded to Nedlitz, carried 5 x 85-mm AT guns, 6 x 76-mm AT guns, 12 armored personnel carriers, 12 to 15 trucks, 3 field kitchens, 2 tank trucks and 8 boxcarloads of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. A second shipment reportedly passed through the railroad station in the same direction during the morning of the same day. It was learned that farmers from Krahne, Reckahn and Pernitz south of Brandenburg were not permitted to work on their fields after 29 September because of maneuvers.
12. On 19 September, large-scale loadings were to start at 20 railroad stations of the RBD Magdeburg. The ramp in Gross-Ammensleben on the Magdeburg-Oebisfelde railroad line was to be blocked on and after that date.

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Comment. These observations definitely indicate the beginning of a fall maneuver of the Third Shock Army. The movements predominantly involved units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps from the Wismar-Schwerin-Ludwigslust area. The shipments from Haldensleben to the Altengrabow area (Guesen) presumably involved elements of the 18th Mecz Div from Letzling Heath. It cannot yet be determined to what extent units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps were involved in the exercises. Individual shipments from Stendal via Biederitz and to Altengrabow tend to indicate that elements of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div were transferred to the assembly area between Altengrabow and the Elbe River. The fact that the 36th Pon Bridge Regt from the summer camp east of Rosslau and from Magdeburg also participated in the exercise indicates that the maneuver was to include major river-crossing operations. From the 3 shipments from Eberswalde to Altengrabow, it can be concluded that the amphibious unit of GSFG (or the Fourth Gds Mecz Army) was also involved.

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40 track-laying amphibious vehicles were loaded onto 2 trains in Eberswalde on 22 September and, 2 shipments with 54 amphibious vehicles (reportedly of type ~~XXXX~~) passed through Oranienburg-Nauen and proceeded southward on 22 September.

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